10/18/66

Dear J.,

Is there any more on the "anchester thing" than in the current issue. I'm very anxious to keep up with it, among the many things I try to keep up with.

There is nothing really new, though I jope there will soon be. Indications from my British agent are that Fletrinelli is to do WHITEWASH, having begun with the lowest of three bids (I said I laugh) and wound up with the highest. They refused to even read it in May 1965. A German junior edition of the Reader's Digest is interested in condensation rights (Gicher by der RD!) and has made a not unacceptable offer.

The German publisher who did Epstein's book has been sitting on my ms for a year writing they are interested and not returning it or answering letters. This fine morality finds its companion in the French publisher of Lane's, who apparently cabled me for an option after decideing on Lane's without having seen mine and from the available evidence seeming to have the book they are doing in the hands of a translator. This is not established fact, but it seems clear from the record. I have yet to learn whether not doing business with publishers is better than doing business with them. If I knew more about distributors, I'd be able to make up my mind. Such frightful people for such wonderful things as books to have to be in the hands of!

The one thing I have learned about my health is that whatever the problem is, it is not the diagnosed gall bladder.

Metromedia in DC is having a preview of the taped program. I tell you this on the assumption they will in NYC also and you'd like to see it. They probably will in LA also, for I know that these three stations at least are to carry it. Do you know anyone in LA who might be interested, aside from Mort Sahl who is busy giving Lane ecstatic credit for everything I've done. On the part of the tape of one show I heard he did manage to mention the other books on the subject - except WHITEWASH.

We are now in the fourth printing. The "in print" figure is now 22,500.

I do have some new and very hot stuff for WHITEWASH II, which I am now reading, in between the other things I have to do.

It is foolish to ask you anything that requires a letter of you, but nonethless I'm thinking of a Coq d'Or Press that will do books only by offset and do only those "Unprintable Books Than CAN'T be printed". Do you think I could arrange for dependable distribution? What I have in mind is books that face what WHITEWASH did.

Why must we copy and lament that there is no American equivalent in novel form of "Bread and Wine" and "1984" and not consider what we can domwith non-fiction and then do it.

Best,

I still want what you haven't sent